



easter  
SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

## Forgiven People John 21:1-17

In the midst of the Easter story is this tremendous failure.  
In the midst of your Easter is there failure?  
Our failures and wrongdoings sit on us like a burden on our shoulders.

"In the monastery I did not think about women, money, or possessions, instead my heart trembled and fidgeted about whether God would bestow His grace on me." - Martin Luther

There is no failure too great that God cannot restore.  
There is no burden that Jesus can't lift off your shoulders.

Even though Peter failed, Jesus will continue to work through him.  
Even though Peter failed, he will be a fisher of men.  
Three times Peter denied Jesus and three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him.

Forgiveness is recognizing the wrongdoing but then not counting it against the person.  
Peter was a sinner and failure, but Jesus makes him a fisherman and shepherd.

**Big Idea:** Jesus works through forgiven people, not perfect people.

God doesn't work through people with a perfect track record. He works through people who repent and run to the cross.

"God loves to save and then use the kind of people we'd least expect, people like you, me, and a guy named Peter who, despite his colossal failure - and his inability to look Jesus in the eye - still had a significant role to play." - Larry Osborne

What is true about you apart from Jesus?  
What are the lies you tell yourself?  
What is true of you with Jesus?

Today is the day to turn and run to the cross of Jesus and receive forgiveness. He will lift the burden of sin off your shoulders and free you to live for Him.

**Other Scripture:** Matthew 26:33; Mark 14:29; Luke 22:33, 61-62; John 13:37-38; Luke 5:1-11

**Further Study:**

**Read:** John 21:1-17 in your group or with at least one other person.

1. Have someone read it while everyone reads along.
2. Have someone else read it while everyone else listens.
3. Have someone recount the text from memory in their own words.

**Discuss:**

1. What does the passage reveal about God?
2. What does the passage reveal about humanity?

**Act:**

1. If this passage is from God, what should change about how you live?
2. Who needs to hear the truth of this Scripture that you can share it with this week? Identify a time this week when you might have the opportunity to share with them.